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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,214	03/10/2004	Han-Ping Kuo	250122-1360	4136
24504	7590	04/18/2006	EXAMINER	
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW STE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339-5948			SCHECHTER, ANDREW M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/797,214

Applicant(s)

KUO ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew Schechter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kim*, U.S. Patent No. 6,064,455.

Kim '455 discloses [see Fig. 5] a flat panel display comprising a frame [210 and the matching top piece], a panel [220] disposed in the frame, and a backlight unit, further disposed in the frame, comprising a plurality of optical sheets [205,etc.], a light source [202], a light guide plate [204], and a single reflector [240 and 203] surrounding the light source and the light guide plate, wherein one of the optical films comprises a first end, and the reflector comprises a second end in the vicinity of the optical films, the first end level with the second end. [Note that elements 240 and 203 are given separate labels, but they are described as "attached to form a continuous plane parallel to and along the length of the lightguide" in the abstract.] Claim 1 is therefore anticipated.

The light guide plate is disposed under the optical films, so claim 4 is also anticipated. The first end is also facing the second end, so claim 10 is also anticipated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim*, U.S. Patent No. 6,016,175 in view of *Kim*, U.S. Patent No. 6,064,455.

Kim '175 discloses [see Fig. 15, for instance] a flat panel display comprising a frame [106], a panel [112, 113] disposed in the frame, a backlight unit further disposed in the frame, comprising a plurality of optical films [110, 111], a light source [300], a light guide plate [400], wherein one of the optical films [110] comprises a first end and the reflector (discussed below) comprises a second end in the vicinity of the optical films, and the first end level with the second end.

Kim '175 does not disclose a single reflector surrounding the light source and the light guide plate; instead, it discloses two separate reflectors [U-shaped reflector 103 and reflecting sheet 109] surrounding the light source and the light guide plate. *Kim '455* discloses an analogous LCD; *Kim '455* shows [see Fig. 2] as conventional art the arrangement with a U-shaped reflector [140] and a reflective sheet [103] and discloses [see Fig. 5] as an improvement having these two elements "attached to form a

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continuous plane parallel to and along the length of the lightguide without resulting in a step arranged at the connection" [abstract]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use *Kim '455's* attached, single reflector in place of *Kim '175's* two separate reflectors, motivated by the teaching of *Kim '455* that this is beneficial in reducing manufacturing time and allowing a thinner frame [col. 2, lines 30-40].

Claim 1 is therefore unpatentable.

In *Kim '175*, the first end is also facing the second end, so claim 10 is also unpatentable.

The frame comprises a protruding portion [200] disposed between the reflector and the panel and supporting the panel, so claims 2 and 11 are also unpatentable.

The device comprises two fixing elements, fixing the optical films and the reflector – namely the projecting part [200] [see col. 5, lines 51-53, for instance] fixing the reflector, and the adhesive or whatever performs the attachment of the optical films to the light guide [col. 6, lines 31-32] fixing the optical films. [The examiner notes that the claim language does not require a single fixing element to fix both the optical films and the reflector.] Claims 3 and 12 are therefore unpatentable.

The device further comprises a light guide plate [400] disposed under the optical films, so claim 4 is also unpatentable.

Conclusion


6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Schechter whose telephone number is (571) 272-2302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Andrew Schechter
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800
12 April 2006